



FROM THE SUPERVISOR'S DESK

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT SCIO ROADS

Scioto Township has over 110 miles of public road. Some 47 miles of this total are classed as Township Primary Roads. Examples include Jackson, Zeeb, Dexter, Miller, and Wagner Roads. The remaining 60+ miles are categorized as Township Local Roads. The Board of Trustees recently considered three Special Assessment Districts to resurface roads in several neighborhoods. These discussions illustrated the need for more information about how Township roads are built and maintained. We will face recurring decisions about the costs of maintaining our roads in the future. I hope the following questions and answers will help inform our conversations as we make these decisions together.

IS THE DETERIORATION OF OUR ROADS NORMAL?

Yes, all roads age through a process known as oxidation. The lifespan of a road is about 15-20 years, depending upon the quality of the initial work, maintenance, weather, and drainage. Of the many factors that contribute to the degrading of a road, age is the most significant.

WHO HAS JURISDICTION OVER MAINTAINING OUR ROADS?

The state legislature has given the Washtenaw County Road Commission jurisdiction over all public roads in our Township. The Road Commission receives no direct revenue from our property taxes. The vast majority of money for constructing and maintaining public roads comes from the Michigan Transportation Fund, which is comprised of gasoline taxes and vehicle registration fees. The Road Commission receives a small sum per mile annually for Township Local Roads which goes primarily to winter maintenance (plowing and salting) and sending an occasional crew to patch potholes. It is legally prohibited from paying the total cost of rebuilding a Township Local Road.

CAN THE MONEY FOR ROADS COME FROM ANYWHERE ELSE?

Yes. Neighborhoods can tax themselves through a Special Assessment District, or S.A.D., where a majority of property owners agree to allow a government agency to levy a special tax in exchange for a specific service (e.g. paving a road or building a sidewalk). The district would include designated property owners whose property either fronts on these roads or who must use the roads (or sidewalks) to reach their own homes. Within the S.A.D. agreement, the

BY WILL HATHAWAY, SUPERVISOR

Township fronts the cost of the service, and the affected property owners pay the money back in the form of a special time-limited levy.

HOW ARE THE BOUNDARIES OF AN S.A.D. DETERMINED?

There are two basic requirements for inclusion. First, all parcels in the S.A.D. must receive some benefit from the proposed improvement. And second, the burden imposed by the assessment

Continued on page 2

IN THIS ISSUE:

Roads Update.....	2
Clerk's Column.....	3
Letter from the Fire Chief	4
New Business.....	5
Richard Hughes.....	5
Planning Commission	6-7
Update on Paths	8
Conceptual Map.....	9
Washtenaw Literacy.....	10
Andrea Garrett	11
Contacts.....	12

Continued from page 1

must be reasonably related to the benefit received. Other than that, however, there are no firm rules about how to determine the boundaries of a proposed S.A.D. under Public Act 188. For example, it is not a legal requirement that all parcels have frontage on the improved road.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS OF INITIATING AN S.A.D.?

Public Act 188 provides two methods for initiating an S.A.D: through petition by a majority of the property owners in the proposed district, or via resolution by the Township Board of Trustees. If there is sufficient interest in the neighborhood, the Township sets up a meeting for educational purposes. If the neighborhood chooses to proceed with an S.A.D., the Township helps create a petition, which volunteers from the neighborhood use to gather signatures of approval. If property owners of more than 50 percent of road frontage sign the petition, it may then be submitted to the Board of Trustees. Once the petition is submitted, the Township schedules a public hearing to consider the necessity of the improvement and to hear any objections to the project.

WHAT IS THE PROCESS FOR FINALIZING AN S.A.D.?

Approving an S.A.D. is a lengthy process with many steps, including gathering petition signatures, preparing plans and estimated costs, conducting multiple public hearings, gathering bids, and selling bonds.

WHAT HAPPENS IF SOMEONE DOESN'T WANT THE S.A.D.?

If more than 50 percent of property owners in a proposed Special Assessment District have signed a petition that meets all the requirements of the statute, the only option left for those opposed is to convince the Board of Trustees during a public hearing that the S.A.D. should not be imposed. If approved, the S.A.D. affects every household in the special district, whether the property owners sign the petition or not.

HOW ARE COSTS OF THE S.A.D. DETERMINED?

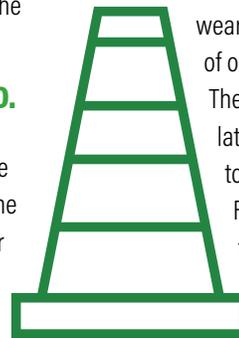
The cost of a project depends on the condition of the existing road and the paving option selected. The cost per property owner depends on the number of parcels included in the

special district.

HOW IS THE LEVY PAID?

There are two options. The property owner can pay the entire amount at once, or elect to pay an amount added to their winter property tax bill over ten years. If the property owner chooses to pay over ten years, interest will accrue at a fixed rate. That rate will depend on the market at the time the S.A.D. was created, although the Township can typically obtain competitive rates.

Unlike most taxes we pay, the levy imposed by a Special Assessment District is finite: we know that it will end in ten years. Furthermore, the benefits of neighborhood road improvement are felt directly and immediately. We know that if we don't repair our local roads they will continue to deteriorate, which affects our quality of life, wear-and-tear on our cars, the look and feel of our neighborhoods, and property values. The benefits to acting sooner rather than later lie in costs increasing over time due to changing oil prices and interest rates. Finally, the sooner a neighborhood acts, the sooner residents can enjoy the benefits of the paved road.



COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION SPRING UPDATE

Spring is here and that means the start of another busy road construction season in Scio Township! Work will resume on the Miller Road renovations as soon as the weather allows. We plan to finish the bridge and resurface Miller Road between Zeeb Road and Wagner Road before reopening.

Later in the summer, a single-lane roundabout will be built at the intersection of Zeeb and Liberty Roads. That intersection will be closed for approximately 6 to 8 weeks.

The following safety improvements along Wagner Road between Ann Arbor-Saline Road and Huron River Drive are planned:

- Replacing crossroad culverts on Wagner Road south of Liberty Road. The road will be closed for approximately 4 weeks.
- Improving the intersection of Wagner Road and Waters Road. The intersection will be closed for approximately 8 weeks.
- Installing centerline corrugations, new signs, and pavement markings.

BY EMILY KIZER, WASHTENAW COUNTY ROAD COMMISSION

Lastly, Maple Road between Blueberry Lane and Newport Road will be resurfaced, and we will sealcoat Baker Road, Dexter-Ann Arbor Road, and Joy Road. These pavement projects are funded in part by the county-wide Roads and Non-Motorized Millage renewed by voters in 2020.

Learn more and subscribe to receive project updates via email at wroads.org/road-work-construction/projects/.

CLERK'S COLUMN

RESPONSIVE GOVERNANCE: A RE-DEDICATION UPON THE OCCASION OF OUR ONE-YEAR CORONA-VERSARY

My personal experience of the pandemic is inextricably intertwined with serving as your Township Clerk. I worked with so many of you to carry out the March 10, 2020 Presidential Primary—the first major election we implemented reforms of same-day voter registration and no-reason absentee voting. After taking the next day off to take care of a sick child, I walked into Township Hall on March 12 to a terrified staff. We immediately mobilized: we held an impromptu but comprehensive planning meeting, sharing information about what the news from abroad might mean; sharing concerns about ensuring that our service to the Township continued; developing new protocols to keep staff safe; generating a plan to keep carrying out our essential duties as public servants. Burned into my mind is my poor rendering of a concept I had just learned—“flattening the curve”—onto a yellow legal pad and holding it up while discussing its meaning with staff. If successful in flattening the curve, we would slow the spread so that fewer people would die, at least for the time being. It was all so clear and logical, yet so painful and scary.

Stepping forward to today, a year later, my mind is still boggled trying to understand all of what our world has endured over the past year. **I know it will take years of recovery—socially, mentally, economically, and civically.** But the challenges of 2020, and today, have motivated many to think creatively, with compassion and intelligence. I am speaking of Scio residents, inspired by the promise of what we can achieve when we act in solidarity to make positive change in our community. Many of you stepped up to serve as Election Inspectors despite threats of violence at the polls in November. Others turned out to participate in Township public

meetings, overcoming the technological hurdles posed by meeting virtually. At least three of you have hand-made masks and delivered them to Township staff. Two local businesses sent us pizza and other treats because we were in-person working at Township Hall during a prior surge. More than 1,000 of you thanked us for carrying out the November election with integrity.

I want to tell you that I see you, Scio residents. I see your kindness, generosity, and diverse talents. I see the growing numbers of you who rent your home here, and the dwindling proportion of families who can afford to buy a home here. I know that I am one of fewer than 600 people who both live and work within Scio Township, forcing longer commutes and greater carbon emissions. I believe that our elected and appointed officials should reflect the community in which we live together—and I celebrate that recent appointments to Township committees include more people of color, immigrants, women, younger adults, and LGBTQ people than ever before.

And I am extremely clear that our Township Governance must mature to meet our collective moment here in the Scio Township of today—one that is larger and more complex than it was 20 years ago. We have outgrown the Township Manager Model—one hired generalist at the top of the organizational chart. In order to provide the responsive and reliable government we need, Township senior staff must include diverse professionals across the distinct fields of services we provide. **They should report directly to the public and to the Board of Trustees, not have their voices and concerns reported through yet another staff person.** This is abundantly clear in the

BY JESSICA FLINTOFT, CLERK

case of our Fire Chief and Utilities Director, two chief positions responsible for life and safety functions. Scio is fortunate to have the services of such outstanding members in their fields as Fire Chief Andrew Houde and Utilities Director Steve Wyzgoski, both directly responsible to the public and the Board. Equally important are the Township's initiatives to plan better to mitigate the effects of climate change, and to expand publicly accessible green spaces and non-motorized pathways. And it is imperative that the Township radically expand its digital communications with residents, make resident services more efficient both in person and virtually, and modernize the Township's administrative and operational processes. These are diverse functions, requiring multiple sets of specialized expertise not found in a local government generalist.

These are extraordinary times and the staff who carry out the operations of our Township government have shown up to this moment with courage and dedication. **We have done and always will do our best for the residents and businesses of Scio Township.** Fortunately, your Board of Trustees recently created a new committee, open to the public, to continue these deliberations and to make recommendations to the Board of Trustees on new staff positions. Learn more and participate in these important discussions by looking for announcements under Meetings on the Township website, SciOTownship.org.

ELECTIONS UPDATE

There will be no election in Scio Township in May; there may be an election held on August 3 and/or November 2.

LETTER FROM THE FIRE CHIEF

BY ANDREW HOUDE, CHIEF
SCIO TOWNSHIP FIRE DEPARTMENT

I hope this newsletter finds everyone well and warm, with sunny days starting to welcome spring back. COVID-19 made winter feel much longer this year. Like most everyone, I am looking forward to the days when this is behind us and our lives are “normal” again.

As I write this article in mid-February, COVID-19 is still an everyday threat for your firefighters. We are responding on calls daily where there is a suspected case and frequently where there is a confirmed case. “New variants” are being discovered nationally, and we are finding them in the community as well. Fortunately, your fire department is in a good position to continue to serve you. We applied for and received a grant to fund personal protective equipment (PPE), which will provide us enough gloves, gowns, masks, and disinfectant to get us through the pandemic

and beyond. We are now working to source PPE, which has gotten more difficult as the pandemic continues.

When the Washtenaw County Health Department began vaccinating first responders in early 2021, 80 percent of your firefighters voluntarily got the vaccine. We received the Pfizer-BioNTec version, with two doses three weeks apart. There were no issues with the first dose, but two personnel had minor reactions to the second dose. One had localized pain at the injection site and some swelling, another felt fatigued for a day or so. Overall, though, the negative effects were minor. Personally, I had a minor headache the day of the first dose which was alleviated by a couple of ibuprofen, and I had a minor fever the day after the second dose that required no treatment. Hopefully, this real-world experience can help

guide your decision when the opportunity presents itself to get a vaccine.

Renovations on the fire station continue, although somewhat slowed by the pandemic. Both the doors for the apparatus bays and on the new vehicle storage building were delayed to the end of February. Much other work was affected by the problem with the doors because we need to be able to operate out the front of the building before temporary living quarters can be placed in the back and the remainder of the interior work can get underway. Overall, the project will take a little longer than expected, but will result in a higher level of service to the community through increased ability to staff the fire house overnight.



SPRING FIRE RISKS

With the spring comes an increase in risk of grass/brush fires. Dried vegetation and spring winds combine to create conditions that will cause these fires to spread rapidly. If burning in the community, make sure to keep the fire contained with an extinguishment means available, and only burn after obtaining a permit from your Fire Department. Burn permits can be obtained by calling the station at 734/665-6001. If you are burning and the fire gets out of control, call 911 immediately, do not attempt to fight the fire yourself.



GET STARTED AS A FIREFIGHTER

The Scio Township Fire Department is looking for paid on-call firefighters—earn while you learn! Successful applicants will be trained to Firefighter I & II and EMT basic level. On-call firefighters supplement the full-time staff by working 12-hour shifts (7am-7pm) and are called back for major incidents. On-call firefighters are paid a competitive wage for both shift work and callback and receive additional preference points in the hiring process for full-time firefighters. Applicants are screened with a background check and medical exams. Get started by contacting Chief Houde at ahoude@sciotownship.org.

NEW BUSINESS BRINGS NEW OPPORTUNITIES

OHM Advisors has been Scio Township's engineering consultant since 1999, as part of a firm that got its start in Livonia specializing in architecture, engineering, and planning. By moving their office serving western Washtenaw County to our township, they plan to continue and expand their services to local communities and private companies alike. "We wanted to establish a greater local presence in western Washtenaw County to bridge the gap between our clients and our Livonia headquarters. Many of our employees live in and around Scio, Dexter, and Ann Arbor and it just makes sense to have an office to be more efficient and offer quicker response times to these core clients," says Matthew Parks, who heads the new office. "We're entering a great market with a talented local team, in an area where there are opportunities to hire more local talent. With the support from nearby offices and

our continued desire to fulfill our mission of Advancing Communities, we feel as if we've hit a home run with this location." OHM immediately brings 20 new engineering and surveying jobs

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

to the new location at 355 South Zeeb Road and hopes to add more soon.



RICHARD HUGHES PROMOTED TO UTILITIES SUPERVISOR

Rich Hughes has worked for Scio Township in the Utilities Department since 2005, and was promoted to the post of Supervisor upon the retirement of Gene Payton (see profile in Fall 2020 issue). Rich got started in wastewater management as a side job while he was working for a cell-phone recycling company in Dexter. He found he enjoyed the work so when a chance came to get started in Scio he applied. Rich's favorite parts of the job have been working out of doors, and meeting local residents, contractors and engineers. Nothing brings Rich more satisfaction than when he and his Utilities crew are able to help residents who have experienced a catastrophic water event.

Moving into a supervisory position has meant more time in the office, more time spent making sure the guys in the field have the tools and training they need. He had a bit of a baptism by



Photo: Robert Read Photography

fire during the period before the new Utilities Director, Steve Wyzgoski, came on board in late December 2020. With his customary optimism,

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Rich describes this period when the department was short-staffed and without a director as a time when he "learned a lot." **Rich notes that the current staffing level of the Utilities Department is lower than it was when he started with Scio 15 years ago, and yet the number of businesses and residences served by the department has grown by 33 percent in the last 5 years alone.** Rich is confident that under the direction of Steve Wyzgoski the Department is primed to face continued development and expansion in Scio. Rich is "always learning," completing continuing education credits and looking toward attaining the highest level of certification available in this field. Scio is lucky to have this team-player as an integral part of our hard-working staff.

INTRODUCING YOUR PLANNING COMMISSION AND COMMISSIONERS

The Planning Commission (PC) provides community leadership on local planning and development policy. It is an appointed body that advises the legislative body (Board of Trustees) on planning matters. The Planning Commission has the responsibility to prepare and update a Master Land Use Plan, which influences the regulations and standards in the zoning ordinance and any future changes to it. We are currently in the process of updating the Scio Master Plan and will be scheduling a public hearing later this spring on the proposed update. The current Master Plan and related materials can be found at sciotownship-masterplan.com/current-materials.

PC Commissioners are responsible to ensure that new development fits the community's vision for a given site, with help from professional planning and engineering consultants. Planning Commissions also have responsibility for Special Use approvals.

Finally, the Planning Commission is the main forum for discussion of changes to the Zoning Ordinance text and map. Changes can be proposed by property owners, the general public, or the Planning Commission itself, but regardless of who proposes the changes, the Planning Commission must hold a public hearing before recommending any zoning changes to the Board of Trustees.

PLANNING COMMISSION 2020-2024

Jan Culbertson, Chair



My family and I have been Scio Township residents for over 30 years. I grew up in Ann Arbor and have been an Ann Arbor architect and sustainability advocate since 1983. I brought those professional skills to the Planning Commission in 2018, and proudly serve the Township that I so enjoy, especially hiking in the preserves and kayaking the Huron.

Jay Holland, Vice-chair



I am a sixth-generation resident of Washtenaw County and a building construction management graduate. For nearly 40 years, I pursued custom building and smaller development projects in the area. I constructed and manage properties in Scio Township and have served on Scio Township's Planning Commission, DDA, Local Roads, TAP, ZBA, Master Plan, and ZOA Committees. I am a Life Director of the National Association of Home Builders and serve on the Board of Ann Arbor Student Building Industry Program. I am excited to be involved in the planning, development, and re-development of Scio Township.

Chris Cheng, Secretary



I have lived in Scio Township for the past 17 years where my wife and I are raising three children. For the last 23 years I have been employed by the City of Ann Arbor Planning Department. In December 2020, I was appointed to the Planning Commission and serve as their representative on the Transportation Alternatives Planning

BY THE MEMBERS OF THE SCIO TOWNSHIP PLANNING COMMISSION

Committee. I also serve on the Scio Ridge Land Conservancy and the Pioneer Women's Ice Hockey boards. I enjoy watching my kids play sports, taking family vacations, and working on my golf swing.

Jacqueline Courteau, Board of Trustees Representative



I am a professional ecologist who worked as an environmental policy analyst in Washington, DC, before coming to Michigan. I moved to Scio Township in 2009, attracted by its natural areas and scenic beauty, accessible to, but distinct from, Ann Arbor. I am serving on the Planning Commission to nurture sustainability and climate resilience, and foster development that balances farmland and open space preservation with the need for economic opportunity and diverse housing. I avidly collect acorns, aiming to grow representatives of all 11 Michigan native oak species.

Bob Hyde



I have lived in the area for 47 years, in Ann Arbor for 34 years and in Scio Township for the past 13. Venturing out of Ann Arbor into Scio Township was always a pleasure before I moved here, whether it was a trip to the Metro Park or a ride "into the country." I joined the Planning Commission as a way to help sustain the Scio character, as we as a Township grow and mature.

Continued on page 7

Kim Moore



I have been a resident of Washtenaw County for over 40 years and lived in Scio Township for the past 13 years. As a lawyer, I have practiced in Washtenaw County for over 23 years. Since 1996, I have been on the Board for the Fair Housing Center of Southeast & Mid-Michigan. In December of 2020, I joined the Planning Commission and serve as a member of the Zoning Ordinance Amendment Committee. I am excited to have the opportunity to serve our community as a member of the Planning Commission.

Rakesh Sharma



I joined the Planning Commission in 2020 wanting to use my engineering and business experience to contribute to the continued growth

and quality of life here in Scio where my family and I have lived for 20 years. Scio Township has grown enormously during this time and I am committed to serving our community as we identify new avenues to guide the development of our Township. Outside of my professional life, I like to spend time traveling and reading among other things.

WALK THE TALK...VOLUNTEER!

Huron River Watershed Council volunteers gather essential data for restoration and protection of the Huron River by testing water quality, collecting river bugs, mapping streams and trails, and assessing natural areas. As a volunteer, you can also clean up trash, weed a rain garden, work special events, or label neighborhood storm drains. Sign up at www.hrwc.org.

ATTENTION SCIO WATER/SEWER CUSTOMERS

The waiver of late-payment fees granted by the Scio Township Board of Trustees in consideration of the COVID pandemic will end on June 30, 2021. All bills received after July 1, 2021 will be expected to be paid in full or incur late fees on all outstanding amounts.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

For the past century, the DNR has worked to conserve Michigan's unparalleled natural and cultural resources and ensure outstanding outdoor recreation opportunities for residents and visitors. From reintroducing elk, moose, and turkey to protecting wild places like the Pigeon River Country State Forest to bringing salmon to the Great Lakes, the DNR is proud to celebrate and share our story. Visit Michigan.gov/DNR to learn more and to find 100 ways to help celebrate.

THE RIDE PLANS TO RESTORE SERVICE LEVELS

The Ann Arbor Area Transportation Authority, known as TheRide, held multiple virtual public engagement meetings throughout March to take comments on its Service Recovery Proposal. The proposal does have adjustments to many routes, including Routes 26, 29, and 30 in Scio Township. The final plan will be presented in June and implemented by the end of August 2021. Check TheRide.org to see the full proposal, including maps.



COLLEGE HELP

Apply to get free or reduced-cost education at a nearby community college through Michigan.gov/Reconnect. You must be over 25 and not already have a college degree.

SCIO UPDATE ON PARKS, PATHS, AND PRESERVES

FOCUS ON THE TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PLANNING COMMITTEE

The Township's Transportation Alternatives Planning Committee (TAP) is charged to "make recommendations to the Board of Trustees concerning the acquisition, equipping, and maintenance of pathways, sidewalks and crosswalks in Scio Township." This article will focus on the progress to date on a proposed network of pathways to enable residents to safely walk or bike to our

many parks and preserves as well as gain access to local businesses and mass transit. When fully implemented and connected to the Border-to-Border Trail (B2B), 90 percent of Scio residents will live within a half mile of a non-motorized pathway. Referring to the Parks, Preserves and Pathways millage of 2020, former Scio Township Supervisor Jack Knowles said, "the millage will enable us to build this vision."

The backbone of the pathway system is along Zeeb Road, starting from the new Township Park at Township Hall and going north to Huron River Drive where it will connect with the B2B. Once this connection is made, pedestrians and cyclists may safely and conveniently access Ann Arbor and Ypsilanti to the east, and Dexter, Chelsea, and beyond to the west. Within Scio Township, the proposed pathway system will connect residents to the Burns-Stokes Preserve and the Delhi and Dexter-Huron Metroparks, as well as Marshall Park and the Liberty Pond Nature Area.

Phases 1 and 2 of the Zeeb Road Pathway are complete. Phase 3, which will bring it further north from its current terminus at Dexter Ann Arbor Road, is expected to be completed this summer. Phase 4 will take it to the Huron River and is expected to begin in 2022. Phase 5, planned for 2023, will take it across the river and railroad tracks and connect to the B2B. Believe it or not, preliminary work has already begun on Phase 5. Crossing a river in Michigan demands

a lot of preparation, permits, and patience but that effort pales in comparison to the planning involved in crossing an active railroad track. However, this effort will be worth it to facilitate access to the B2B, a county-wide non-motorized pathway system that follows the Huron River and is part of the Iron Belle Trail, which extends the length of the entire state of Michigan.



In order to complete Phase 3 of the Zeeb Road Pathway, your neighbors with homes along Zeeb must give their permission to cross their properties. In the process, many have given the project their blessing. One such homeowner, Janas Valdmanis, remarked that "the pathway will add to the health and welfare of our community." Dave and Louise Lutton predicted that the Pathway system "will be a tremendous asset to the entire community and will likely increase property values." And Joe DeMatio added, "we are thrilled to live in a community with the vision, will, and wherewithal to make this system possible."



TAP has a volunteer position open. If you are interested in learning more about our efforts or want to get involved, send an email to TAP@sciotownship.org. If you have a question or suggestion about our plans or a photo to add to the archive, please send it to Parks@sciotownship.org.

Editorial note: *The map on the facing page illustrates preliminary concepts for discussion purposes only. Routes are subject to change due to a variety of circumstances including physical constraints, costs, and resident input.*

BY PATRICK SHIELDS (TRANSPORTATION ALTERNATIVES PLANNING COMMITTEE) AND PATRICK MCLAUGHLIN (PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD)

HELP WANTED:

Utilities Technician, entry level, with some responsibilities in the emerging Parks and Pathways network. This position can involve working in difficult, often dirty, environments, requires strength and dexterity, and a willingness to work out of doors in all weather conditions. On the other hand, you'll love your coworkers! For a complete job description or to send your resume, contact Steve Wyzgoski, Utilities Director, swyzgoski@sciotownship.org.

MICHIGAN!

Here's a new way to support arts, history, and culture in Michigan. Find information on the best of recent Michigan books by looking to Michigan.gov/LibraryofMichigan for their list of 2021's Notable Books written by Michigan authors or set in Michigan. Coincidentally, several of the titles are brought out by Michigan publishers.

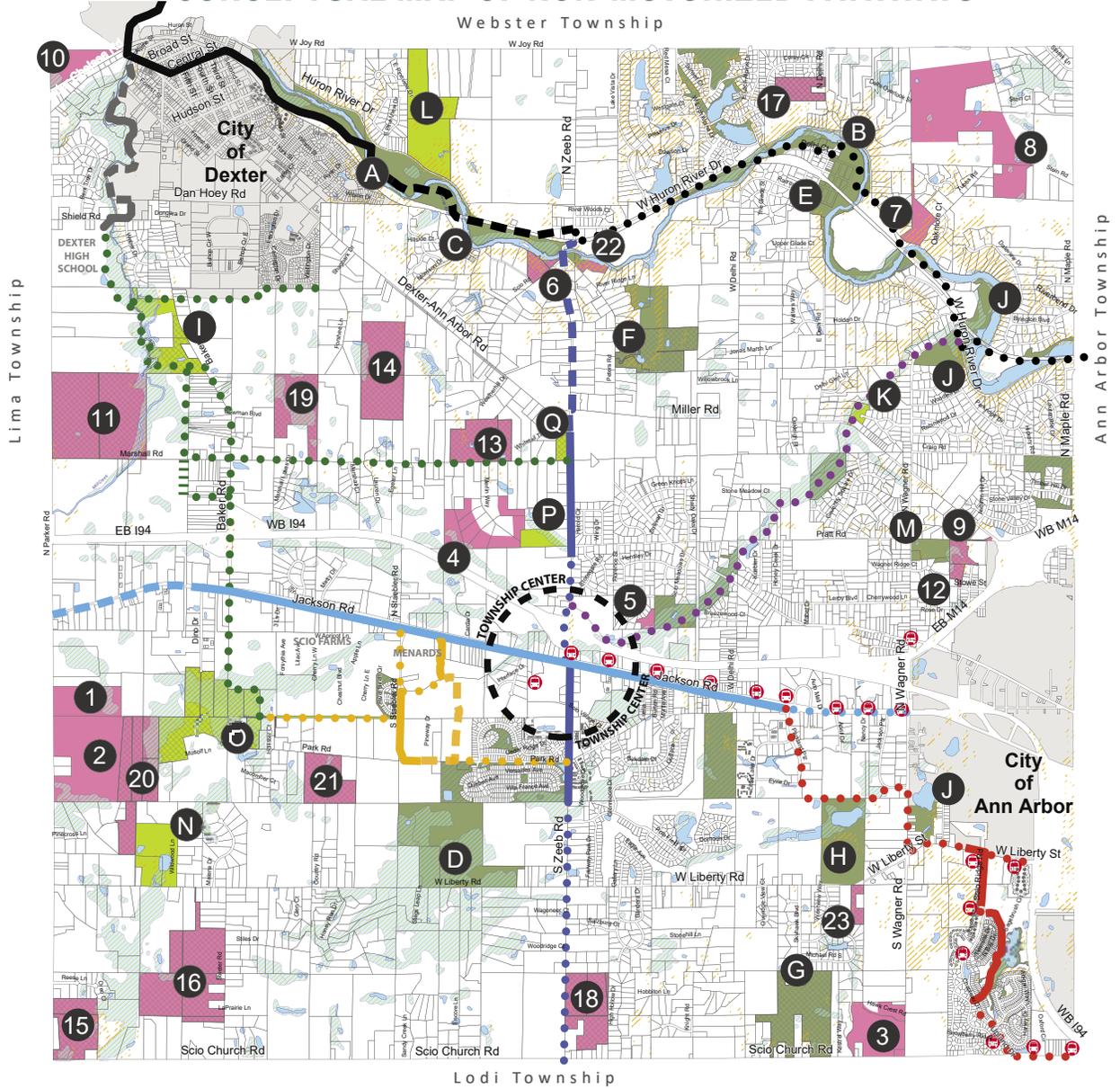


PICK UP AFTER YOUR PET

Preventing bacterial contamination of our waterways is so important that Scio Township has enacted an ordinance requiring that people pick up their pet's solid waste when off their property (Ord. 2021-01). All of Scio Township lies within the Huron River Watershed, which means that all of this land drains eventually into the Huron River. To keep our water clean and usable, pick up after your pet when you are out walking your dog.



CONCEPTUAL MAP OF NON-MOTORIZED PATHWAYS



Conservation Easement

1. Manny Farm
2. Parker Farm
3. Thomas-Lobato Farm & Natural Area
4. Merlin Way Natural Area
5. Solent Natural Area
6. Gatward Natural Area
7. Heydon Natural Area
8. Heydon Farm
9. Botsford Natural Area*
10. Gordon Hall Historical Easement
11. Davenport Farm*
12. Hathaway Natural Area*
13. Green Natural Area*
14. Scherdt Farm*
15. Schneider Farm*
16. Helmer Farm*
17. Moore Farm*
18. White Farm*
19. Levine-Kempler Farm*
20. Frey Farm & Natural Area*
21. Dam Tsig Foundation Farm*
22. Taylor Natural Area*
23. Equestrian Holdings Farm*

Scio Township-owned Public Parks & Preserves

- I. Sloan Preserve*
- K. Township Properties*
- L. Van Curler Preserve*
- N. Wild Preserve
- O. West Scio Preserve
- P. Township Hall Park
- Q. Marshall Park

Other Park/Open Space

- A. Dexter - Huron Metropark
- B. Delhi Metropark
- C. Burns-Stokes County Preserve
- D. DeVine County Preserve
- E. Osborne Mill County Park
- F. Fox County Preserve*
- G. Scio Church Woods County Preserve*
- H. U of M Saginaw Forest
- J. City of Ann Arbor
- M. Botsford County Preserve

Private Park/Open Space Funded in part with Scio Millage Proceeds*

Trails

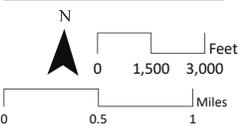
- Existing
- Proposed
- ■ — Construction Pending
- ||||| Future Route

Trail Routes

- Honey Creek Pathway
- Jackson Road Corridor
- Mill Creek Pathway
- South East Pathway
- Scio West Pathway
- Zeeb Road Pathway
- Border-to-Border Trail
- City of Dexter - Mill Creek

- Lakes, Rivers, Streams, & Drains
- Steep Slopes
- Wetlands
- Bus Stops

NOTE: Proposed routes are preliminary concepts intended for discussion purposes only. Routes may be subject to change due to a variety of factors including but not limited to physical constraints, costs, and resident input.



Carlisle/Wortman Associates
March 2021

WASHTENAW LITERACY – CHANGING LIVES FOR 50 YEARS

Washtenaw Literacy is Washtenaw County's only literacy agency serving anyone 16 and older who needs to improve reading, writing, math, digital literacy, or English communication. Michigan's oldest and largest literacy council provides free services to learners throughout the County. Programming is offered through every public library district, local school districts, Washtenaw Community College, Washtenaw County Jail, and in partnership with other social service agencies. During the pandemic, programming is offered virtually by tutors specifically trained and supported to excel with remote learning. If you

know someone who would benefit from these services, help them get to washtenawliteracy.org/get-help.

Washtenaw County's literacy need surprises many: 1 in 5 Washtenaw County adults cannot read a prescription or a ballot, fill out an employment application or earn a family-sustaining wage. In 2019, over 1500 neighbors were served by trained and supported volunteer tutors. To take the first step to becoming a tutor, register for an informational session at washlit.link/ABCs. Help reduce Washtenaw Literacy's waiting list—learners who need you! Teach someone to read; who knows what you will learn?

BY AMY GOODMAN,
WASHTENAW LITERACY



BEWARE OF COVID-VACCINE SCAMS

- Don't pay to sign up for the COVID vaccine. Anyone who asks for a payment to put you on a list, make an appointment for you, or reserve a spot in line is a scammer.
- You can't pay to get early access to the vaccine. That's a scam.
- On Medicare? You don't have to pay to get the COVID-19 vaccine. Only scammers will ask you to pay.
- Ignore sales ads for the vaccine. You can't buy it – anywhere. It's only available at federal- and state-approved locations.
- Nobody legit will call, text, or email about the vaccine to ask for your Social Security, bank account, or credit card number. That's a scam. (Source: Federal Trade Commission)

YOUR TREES

How is changing climate affecting your own backyard?? Before you buy and plant trees this year, check out the Fact Sheet from the Huron River Watershed Council at HRWC.org/tree-resilience-toolkit to learn a tree species' resiliency rating under the evolving environmental conditions.



BIG TREE HUNT

Join the Michigan Big Tree Hunt, sponsored by the tree-planting and education non-profit ReLeaf Michigan and the Department of Natural Resources. Find and document the largest trees state-wide at ReLeafMichigan.org. Prizes available by size and by the age of the "tree searcher."



OUTDOOR SKILLS

Go to Michigan.gov/OutdoorSkills to learn a new skill or brush up an old one. The Outdoor Skills Academy offers instruction, gear, and hands-on learning for a range of outdoor activities, from hunting and fishing to hiking, birding, mushrooming, and more.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT ON ANDREA GARRETT

BY MARY GILLIS, EDITOR

Andrea Garrett's job description on the Township's new website is to-the-point: *Appraiser and auditor for personal property, legal descriptions, and mapping. Responsible for ownership records, transfers of properties, and Principal Residence Exemptions (PREs).* But these words fail to convey the vibrant person Andrea is, or the vast number of ways she contributes to the running of the Township. Andrea began working for the Township in 1998 and in addition to her job as Associate Assessor she holds the title of Deputy Treasurer, authorized to fill in for the Treasurer when she is not available. But Andrea likes to keep busy so she always says "yes" when she gets called upon to help--when a coworker is ill or there is a gap in staffing, or when it's just crunch time, Andrea is willing to learn a new skill in order to help out. Over those 20-plus years she has



Photo: Robert Read Photography

learned how to do many of the jobs that keep your local government humming along, from elections to payroll.

Andrea has many interests outside of her work here at Township Hall. She is the proud mama of a rescue dog and 4 rescue cats. If you are ever looking to take on a cat, Andrea will find one for you! She loves putting together puzzles and everything about Michigan football. She works out at a local bootcamp-style gym most days before work. Her passion is scrapbooking, which makes her feel like a kindergartener again because she gets to play with paper and glue. She also enjoys painting--both kinds: paint-by-number and paint-your-walls. Andrea is a busy, knowledgeable, down-to-earth person and if you find yourself on the other end of the phone with her, you're sure to get the straight story. Andrea, we are so grateful for your many contributions to Scio Township!

Native Plant Expo & Marketplace

NATIVE PLANTS

The annual Native Plant Expo & Marketplace is the place to shop for Michigan native plants, to learn how to establish and maintain native landscapes, and to connect with companies specializing in planning native landscapes. Saturday, June 5 at the Washtenaw Farm Council Grounds. Tickets are free but must be reserved in advance. washtenawcd.org/expo

TRASH ORDINANCE TAKES EFFECT

The grace period for Scio residents to complete their prior service agreements with other waste-haulers is March 31. Starting on April 1, the only approved waste-hauler for residential service is GFL Environmental. Any other waste-hauler providing residential, "curbside" service after that date will be in violation of the Township's Solid Waste Ordinance. The only exceptions are those waste-haulers serving a Home Owners Association (HOA) through a pre-existing contract that expires after March 31.



REMEMBER...!

Spring is here but Michigan winters are tricky about final snowfalls. Please remember that property owners are responsible for keeping sidewalks in good repair and free from ice, snow, and other obstructions. Snow that accumulates overnight must be cleared by 6 pm the following day; snow that accumulates during the day must be cleared by noon the following day.



NEW WEBSITE

Township website: mobile enhanced, accessible, up-to-date: if you've been frustrated by the old website, give the new one a try. Same address, much improved: sciotownship.org



Scio Township Hall
827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103

To Scio Neighbor

USEFUL CONTACT INFO

TOWNSHIP HALL AND CLERK'S OFFICE

827 North Zeeb Road
Ann Arbor, MI 48103
(734) 369-9400
info@sciotownship.org
clerk@sciotownship.org
website: **sciotownship.org**
newsletter@sciotownship.org
Hours: Monday to Friday 8 am – 5 pm

OFFICERS

Will Hathaway, Supervisor—
whathaway@sciotownship.org
Jessica Flintoft, Clerk—
jflintoft@sciotownship.org
Donna E. Palmer, Treasurer—
depalmer@sciotownship.org
Jacqueline Courteau, Trustee—
jcourteau@sciotownship.org
Alec Jerome, Trustee—
ajerome@sciotownship.org
Kathleen Knol, Trustee—
kknol@sciotownship.org
Jane E. Vogel, Trustee—
jvogel@sciotownship.org
TownshipBoard@sciotownship.org

THE SCIO TOWNSHIP COMMUNITY REPORT

Is published quarterly by the Scio Township Board of Trustees for the residents of Scio Township.
Editor Mary Gillis
Graphic Design Julie Tanguay
Printing and Mailing Print-Tech

SENIOR STAFF

Andrew Houde, Fire Chief –
ahoude@sciotownship.org
Steve Wyzgoski, Utilities Director—
swyzgoski@sciotownship.org
Sandy Egeler, CFO – segeler@sciotownship.org
Kristy Aiken, Office Coordinator –
kaiken@sciotownship.org
Jim Merte, Assessor – jmerte@sciotownship.org

UTILITIES

In Scio:
Regular business hours (734) 369-9350
After-hours emergencies: (734) 651-4770
In Dexter: (734) 426-4572
(with after-hours automated triage)
In Loch Alpine:
Water or sewer emergencies. . . (248) 433-8904
Non-emergencies (517) 715-9739
Account Management/Billing
(office hours M-F, 5-8 p.m) . . . (734) 433-0835

FIRE DEPARTMENT

For emergencies 911
Business line (734) 655-6001

WASHTENAW COUNTY

Water Resources Commissioner (734) 222-6860
drains@ewashtenaw.org
County Road Commission (734) 761-1500
wcrd@wccroads.org

County Commissioner

District 1 – Jason Maciejewski
maciejewskij@washtenaw.org
District 9 – Katie Scott
scottk@washtenaw.org

STATE OF MICHIGAN

State Representative

District 52 - Donna Lasinski . . . (855) 627-5052
DonnaLasinski@house.mi.gov

State Senator

District 22 - Lana Theis. (517) 373-2420
senltheis@senate.michigan.gov

Governor

Gretchen Whitmer. (517) 373-3400
gwhitmer@michigan.gov

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT

U.S. Representatives

District 7 – Tim Walberg (202) 225-6276
walberg.house.gov
District 12 – Debbie Dingell (202) 225-4071
debbiedingell.house.gov

U.S. Senators

Debbie Stabenow (202) 224-4822
stabenow.senate.gov
Gary Peters (202) 224-6221
peters.senate.gov

President of the United States

Joe Biden (202) 456-1111
whitehouse.gov